

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 8-13 with the following:

One aspect of the invention is directed to an improved technique for storing and retrieving data. For ease of reference, in this section, the invention will be referred to as a data retrieval system. FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram that illustrates a hardware environment of an embodiment of the present invention, and, more particularly, illustrates a typical distributed computer system using a network 250 to connect a client computer 200 to other computers 230, 240, 260, and ~~270~~ and data store 270.